

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08006 01 OF 02 080203Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /057 W
----- 029949

R 070715Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6173
INFO USCINCEUR
CINCNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
USNATO BRUSSELS 1931
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 8006

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: QUESTION OF THE KING

1. SUMMARY: MONARCHY QUESTION HAS EMERGED AS CAMPAIGN
THEME DESPITE GOG EFFORTS TO RELEGATE IT TO NON-ISSUE
STATUS AS CU/NF'S MAVROS PRODS PM CARAMANLIS TO DECLARE
POSITION OF "NEW DEMOCRACY." ND CLINGS TO NEUTRALITY
WITH PARTY LEADERS PROCLAIMING GREEK PEOPLE SHOULD DECIDE
FUTURE OF MONARCHY IN DECEMBER REFERENDUM. PAPANDREOU'S
PASOK AND UNITED LEFT ARE ALREADY ON RECORD OPPOSING
MONARCHY. ODDS FOR MONARCHY SEEM SLIM, EVEN IF ELECTED
CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT EVENTUALLY SUPPORTS ITS RESTORATION.
AT SAME TIME IT IS RECALLED THAT GREEKS HAVE HELD FIVE
PREVIOUS REFERENDUMS THIS CENTURY WITH RESULTS DIVIDED
THREE-TWO IN FAVOR OF KING. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08006 01 OF 02 080203Z

2. CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES LEADER GEORGE MAVROS IN MOST

RECENT CAMPAIGN ADDRESSES CHALLENGED CARAMANLIS AND NEW DEMOCRACY TO CLARIFY POSITION ON MONARCHY. MAVROS ON NATIONAL TV DECLARED CU/NF STAND IS EMPHATICALLY IN FAVOR OF AN "UNCROWNED PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY," AND HE URGED NEW DEMOCRACY TO ABANDON ITS "SUBTERFUGE" AND TO DISCLOSE IT POSITION TO GREEK PEOPLE. IN SEPARATE SPEECH PROFESSOR MANGAKIS, CU/NF CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY, STRESSED THAT "THE FOUNDATION OF UNCROWNED PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IS THE CENTRAL PROBLEM OF GREECE AT THE MOMENT" AND CHARGED THAT NEW DEMOCRACY IS PREPARING FOR RETURN OF MONARCHY THROUGH ANTI-DEMOCRATIC MEANS. MEANWHILE ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, A STRONG OPPONENT OF MONARCHY, HAS REPEATEDLY DENOUNCED THE RIGHT FOR MAKING PREPARATIONS TO RESTORE KING. NEW DEMOCRACY'S RESPONSE CONSISTENTLY HAS BEEN TO TAKE NEUTRAL GROUND "LET PEOPLE DECIDE IN UPCOMING REFERENDUM." GEORGE RALLIS, LEADING ND CANDIDATE FROM ATHENS, ENUNCIATED PARTY'S STAND THIS WEEK IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS--"OUR ADVERSARIES ACCUSE US OF NOT DISCLOSING OUR INTENTIONS ON THE MONARCHY ISSUE. BUT HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR POSITION CLEARER? THE DEMOCRATIC WAY IS TO ABSTAIN FROM INFLUENCING EITHER SIDE...AND PERMIT THE GREEK PEOPLE TO DECIDE."

3. LINEUP ON MONARCHY BY PARTIES PLACES UNITED LEFT, PASOK AND CU/NF IN PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO ITS RESTORATION, EXTREME RIGHT AND MINISCULE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION, EDE REPORTEDLY IN FAVOR, AND NATION'S LARGEST PARTY, NEW DEMOCRACY, UNDECLARED. OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT KING CONSTANTINE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO FARE WELL IN NEXT MONTH'S REFERENDUM, PARTICULARLY IF CARAMANLIS CONTINUES TO EVADE ISSUE OR WITHHOLDS ANY GESTURE OF SUPPORT. KING'S POSITION WOULD BE PROBABLY ENHANCED WERE HE IN GREECE BEFORE REFERENDUM, BUT WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING TO SUGGEST THIS COULD HAPPEN. ANOTHER AREA OF LOCAL SPECULATION IS THAT KING MAY BE GAINING STRENGTH; THIS RESTS ON HYPOTHESIS THAT POPULACE IS GROWING UNEASY AND DISENCHANTED WITH STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND INCREASING TENSION WHICH MANY ASCRIBE TO PASOK'S ENCOURAGEMENT AND FACT GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY IS NOW LEGAL AFTER 27 YEARS OF FORCED UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES. CARAMANLIS' PERSONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 08006 01 OF 02 080203Z

ATTITUDE WAS PARTIALLY DISCLOSED IN TIME MAGAZINE INTERVIEW LAST MONTH WHEN HE RECALLED THAT HIS OWN RESIGNATION IN 1963 AND DECISION TO LEAVE GREECE WAS OUTCOME OF DISPUTE WITH ROYAL FAMILY. FORMER MINISTER C. MITSOTAKIS, INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY, BROUGHT MONARCHY QUESTION INTO UNFAVORABLE LIGHT THIS WEEK WHEN IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH HE RECOUNTED LAST DAYS OF GEORGE PAPANDREOU'S ADMINISTRATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY INSISTENCE OF KING CONSTANTINE

ON SELECTING NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO REPLACE INCUMBENT
PETROS GAROUFALIAS WHO OF COURSE NOW HEADS RIGHIST EDE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08006 02 OF 02 071146Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /057 W
----- 020568

R 070715Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6174
INFO USCINCEUR
CINCNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
USNATO BRUSSELS 1982
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 8006

4. MONARCHY ISSUE HAS BEEN CENTER OF CONTROVERSY SINCE
FOUNDING OF NATION. MONARCHY/REPUBLIC QUESTION HAS PRODUCED
HEATED POLITICAL DEBATE THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY DURING
WHICH FIVE REFERENDUMS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH THREE RESULTING
IN FAVOR OF MONARCHY. ONLY EXTENDED PREVIOUS REPUBLICAN
ERA IN GREECE, 1924-1935, WAS MARKED WITH MEASURABLY
GREATER INSTABILITY, COUPS AND ATTEMPTED COUPS THAN
MONARCHICAL PERIODS. ON EACH OCCASION GREEKS WENT TO
POLLS ON MONARCHY ISSUE VOTERS PREFERENCE WAS DICTATED
SEEMINGLY BY STRONG DESIRE TO OBTAIN STABILITY AND TO
CONSOLIDATE DISPARATE POLITICAL ELEMENTS. LOPSIDED RESULTS
IN 1920 - 99 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF MONARCHY, 1935 - 98PER CENT FOR
MONARCHY AND TO LESSER EXTENT IN 1924 AND 1973 VICTORIES
FOR REPUBLIC SUGGEST GOVERNMENT CONDUCT OF PLEBISCITES
MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY ABOVE BOARD. AS GREEKS FREQUENTLY

POINT OUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER "LOST" A PLEBISCITE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08006 02 OF 02 071146Z

5. KING CONSTANTINE'S STANDING WITH GREEK PEOPLE HAS NEVER BEEN HIGH. CONTRASTINGLY HIS FATHER, KING PAUL, WHO DIES IN 1964, WAS CONSIDERED AS PERHAPS NATION'S MOST POPULAR MONARCH. DURING EARLY POST-WAR PERIOD KING PAUL AND QUEEN FREDERIKA, WHO LATER BECAME CENTER OF CONTROVERSY FOR ALLEGED INFLUENCE ON YOUNG KING CONSTANTINE, WERE CONSTRUCTIVE IN REBUILDING NATION MORALLY, SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. ON OTHER HAND KING CONSTANTINE CANCELLED POSSIBLE GAINS WITH YOUTH AND RESISTANCE FORCES THROUGH HIS DECEMBER 13, 1967 COUNTER-COUP BY MERE FACT OF HAVING BOTCHED IT. WHILE EXCUSING HIS FAILURE TO SOME EXTENT ON GROUNDS OF HIS INEXPERIENCE AND YOUTH, GREEKS COMMONLY REFER TO EVENT AS THEATER OF ABSURD NOT INCONSISTENT WITH KING CONSTANTINE'S REPUTATION AS ATHENIAN PLAYBOY, INTELLECTUAL LIGHTWEIGHT, AND SOMETIME OLYMPIC SAILING CHAMPION. DESPITE CONSTANTINE'S SPOTTY RECORD, HE ENJOYS SOME SUPPORT PARTICULARLY WITH OLDER GENERATION. REPORTEDLY HE MAINTAINS CONTACT, FOR MOST PART INDIRECT, WITH POLITICAL LEADERS IN GREECE INCLUDING PETROS GAROUFALIAS. KING CONSTANTINE'S OWN INCLINATION SEEMS TO BE TO STAND ALOOF FROM PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND TO TAKE HIS CHANCES IN REFERENDUM TO BE HELD WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER ELECTIONS. WHILE IN 1970'S IT MAY NOT BE AS EASY FOR GOVERNMENT TO MANIPULATE OR MANAGE REFERENDUM AS IN PAST, CARAMANLIS' ATTITUDE ASSUMING HE REMAINS PM PRESUMABLY WILL BE DECISIVE. AT PRESENT TIDE OF PUBLIC PRESSURE APPEARS TO BE RUNNING PREDOMINANTLY AGAINST KING, THOUGH QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER MONARCHY AS ELEMENT OF LEGITIMACY AND STABILITY MAY STILL HAVE ENOUGH ATTRACTION FOR GREEK VOTER TO PRODUCE LAST-MINUTE SHIFT IN OPINION ESPECIALLY IF THERE ARE ACCOMPANYING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES MAKING HIS FUNCTIONS PURELY CEREMONIAL.

KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KING, MONARCHY, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS08006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740321-0220
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741164/aaaaccho.tel
Line Count: 209
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <08-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUESTION OF THE KING
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR, (CARAMANLIS), (PAPANDREOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005